

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 COME-00 IO-14 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03

SS-20 RSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04

USIA-15 PRS-01 DRC-01 /124 W

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R 171729Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1700

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PLEASE PASS AID/LA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OAS, MX

SUBJECT: INAUGURATION OF OAS TOURISM TRAINING CENTER AND
OAS/GALO PLAZA REACTIONS

1. THE OAS TOURISM TRAINING CENTER, WHICH OCCUPIES A
REMODELED AND BEAUTIFULLY FURNISHED BUILDING PROVIDED
BY THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT, WAS INAUGURATED WITH PRESENCE
OF PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA AND OAS SECRETARY GENERAL GALO
PLAZA.

2. THIS IMPRESSIVE OPERATION WAS CREATED AS PART OF THE
TOURISM YEAR OF THE AMERICAS AND IS INTENDED TO TRAIN
PERSONNEL IN THE EXECUTIVE AND JUNIOR EXECUTIVE LEVELS
IN TOURISM PLANNING.

3. GALO PLAZA IS HERE AS THE OFFICIAL GUEST OF THE
MEXICAN GOVERNMENT. FOREIGN MINISTER RABASA HOSTED A
BANQUET IN HONOR OF GALO PLAZA WHICH WAS ATTENDED BY
ALL OF THE AMBASSADOR OF THE OAS MEMBER STATES PLUS
TOP-LEVEL FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS AND LEADING
OFFICIALS CONCERNED WITH TOURISM/TRAVEL INDUSTRY.

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4. AT BANQUET RABASA MADE EXTENSIVE INFORMAL TOAST

PRAISING PLAZA AND THE WORK OF THE OAS. HE STRESSED THAT THE INFORMAL MEETINGS OF THE FOREIGN MINISTERS AT TLATELOLCO AND WASHINGTON WERE IN NO WAY INTENDED TO DISPLACE THE OAS. SUCH MEETINGS WERE INTENDED TO SPARK INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS AMONG THE FOREIGN MINISTERS AND HAD LED TO THE DIRECT DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND LATIN AMERICA AS A WHOLE. THE CONSEQUENT SPIRIT OF TLATELOLCO HAD BEEN SO SUCCESSFUL THAT HE HOPED THAT IN THE FUTURE THERE WOULD NOT BE LATIN AMERICA VERSUS THE UNITED STATES BUT A GROUP DISCUSSION, WITHOUT A NORTH/SOUTH CONFRONTATION, OF THE ENTIRE CORPS OF HEMISPHERIC FOREIGN MINISTERS. AS REGARDS THE OAS, IT WAS THE LOGICAL INSTRUMENT TO CARRY OUT THE DECISIONS OF THE FOREIGN MINISTERS. IT HAD THE PERMANENT PRESENCE OF THE NATIONS THROUGH THEIR AMBASSADORS TO THE OAS PLUS THE EXECUTIVE ARM OF THE SECRETARIAT. THUS, IF THE OAS WERE NOT UTILIZED, A PARALLEL ORGANIZATION WOULD CERTAINLY DEVELOP IN ORDER TO CARRY OUT MINISTERIAL DECISIONS. THERE WAS NO THOUGHT OF CREATING SUCH WASTEFUL DUPLICATION. RATHER, IT WAS MORE THAN EVER NECESSARY TO UTILIZE THE RESOURCES OF THE OAS. MEXICO, FOR ONE, WAS FIRMLY COMMITTED TO A CONTINUING, STRONGER, MORE FLEXIBLE OAS. HE CONCLUDED BY LAVISHING PRAISE ON THE PERSONAL ROLE PLAYED BY GALO PLAZA.

5. COMMENT: UNDERSTAND THAT PURPOSE OF HAVING GALO AS GUEST OF HONOR WAS INTENDED TO COMPENSATE IN PART FOR SLIGHT DONE TO HIM BY MEXICO'S OPPOSITION TO HIS PRESENCE AT TLATELOLCO. DESPITE THIS, ALSO BELIEVE THAT RABASA WAS SINCERE IN HIS SUPPORT OF VALID FUTURE ROLE OF OAS AS WELL AS IN HIS PRAISE FOR GALO PERSONALLY. MOREOVER, MEXICO IS VERY FLATTERED TO HAVE THE TOURISM TRAINING CENTER HERE AS THIS HAD BEEN ONE OF ITS MAJOR OBJECTIVES. JOVA

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INAUGURATION, TOURISM, SOCIAL RECEPTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MEXICO04082
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740123-0540
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740539/aaaabies.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 SEP 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <24 FEB 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INAUGURATION OF OAS TOURISM TRAINING CENTER AND OAS/GALO PLAZA REACTIONS
TAGS: PFOR, MX, OAS, TOURISM TRAINING CENTER
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005